

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for supplying oxygen to a water purification process, said method comprising:

- a) providing an oxygen carrier of at least one copolymer of dimethylsiloxane, ethylene oxide and propylene oxide;
- b) adding said oxygen carrier to the water ~~purifying~~ purification process; and
- c) contacting said oxygen carrier with an ~~oxygen-containing~~ oxygen-containing gas.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein said copolymer is added as an emulsion, or as a copolymer immobilized on and/or in a support.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 2, wherein said ~~support-immobilized~~ support-immobilized copolymer further includes immobilized microorganisms thereon.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 2 or 3, wherein said support is selected from the group consisting of organic supports and ~~non-organic~~ inorganic supports.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein said oxygen containing gas is added to the process either continuously or batch-wise.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein said water purification process comprises aerobic steps and wherein said copolymer is added to the said aerobic steps of the water-purifying process.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one copolymer comprises 10-40 % by weight of dimethylsiloxane, 20-60% by weight of ethylene oxide, and 10-60 % by weight of propylene oxide.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 7, wherein said copolymer comprises 15-35% by weight of dimethylsiloxane, 25-45% by weight of ethylene oxide and 20-50% by weight of propylene oxide.

9. (Original) Use of at least one copolymer of dimethylsiloxane, ethylene oxide and propylene oxide, as an oxygen carrier in a water purification process.

10. (Original) Use according to claim 9, wherein said at least one copolymer comprises 10-40 % by weight of dimethylsiloxane, 20-60% by weight of ethylene oxide, and 10-60 % by weight of propylene oxide.

11. (Original) Use according to claim 10, wherein said copolymer comprises 15-35% by weight of dimethylsiloxane, 25-45% by weight of ethylene oxide and 20-50% by weight of propylene oxide.